

What is claimed is:

1. A port-sharing system comprising:

- 2 a computing resource having a port;
- 3 a monitoring interface to said computing resource available via said
- 4 port;
- 5 a plurality of end user devices to be connected to said monitoring
- 6 interface; and
- 7 a liaison interface to handle communications from said plurality of
- 8 end user devices that are intended for said monitoring interface and to
- 9 handle communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to
- 10 said communications from said end user devices, respectively.

1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein:
2 said port is a first port;
3 said liaison interface has a second port;
4 said liaison interface is operable to connect to each of said plurality
5 of end user devices via said second port while being connected to said
6 computing resource via said first port.

1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein said liaison interface includes at
2 least one handling daemon.

1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said liaison interface is operable to
2 give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices the impression of
3 being directly connected to said computing resource.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the monitoring system is operable
2 to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that are
3 indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

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1 6. The system of claim 4, wherein said computing resource is a mobile
2 switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status display
3 page (SDP) interface.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein said liaison interface is operable to:
2 receive and queue requests from said plurality of end user devices
3 that are intended for said computing resource;
4 sequentially present the queued requests to said monitoring
5 interface;
6 receive responses from said monitoring interface that correspond to
7 said requests; and
8 present said responses to corresponding ones of said plurality of end
9 user devices, respectively.

1 8. The system of claim 1, wherein:
2 said computing resource has multiple ports;
3 said monitoring interface is one of multiple monitoring interfaces
4 available via said multiple ports, respectively;
5 said liaison interface is one of multiple liaison interfaces
6 corresponding to said ports, respectively;
7 said plurality of end user devices is one of multiple sets of a
8 plurality of end user devices; and
9 each liaison interface is operable to handle communications from
10 one of said sets of end user devices that are intended for said monitoring
11 interface and communications from said monitoring interface that
12 correspond to said requests from respective members of said one set of end
13 user devices.

1 9. The system of claim 1, wherein said system includes a network
2 through which access to said port of said computing resource can be had,

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3 and wherein said plurality of end user devices is operable as a terminal on
4 said network.

1 10. A liaison apparatus between a plurality of end user devices and a
2 monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the
3 monitoring interface, the apparatus comprising:

4 a front input/output (I/O) unit to communicate with said plurality of
5 end user devices;

6 a back I/O unit to connect to said port of said computing resource;
7 and

8 a liaison unit to handle communications from said plurality of end
9 user devices via said front I/O unit that are intended for said monitoring
10 interface and to handle communications from said monitoring interface via
11 said back I/O unit that correspond to said communications from said end
12 user devices, respectively.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein:

2 said back I/O unit has a second port; and

3 said front I/O unit is operable to connect to each of said plurality of
4 end user devices via said second port while said back I/O unit is connected
5 to said computing resource via said first port.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said liaison unit is operable to
2 give each user of one of said plurality of end user devices is given the
3 impression of being directly connected to said computing resource.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the monitoring interface is
2 operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that
3 are indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

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14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said computing resource is a mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status display page (SDP) interface.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein said back I/O unit, said front
2 I/O unit and said liaison unit take the form of a daemon running on a
3 network server, wherein the network is connectable to said computing
4 resource.

1 16. A liaison method between a plurality of end user devices and a
2 monitoring interface for a computing resource having a port assigned to the
3 monitoring interface, the method comprising:

connecting to said port of said computing resource;
connecting to said plurality of end user devices; and
handling communications from said plurality of end user devices
that are intended for said monitoring interface and handling
communications from said monitoring interface that correspond to said
communications from said end user devices, respectively.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein:
2 said port is a first port; and
3 connections to each of said plurality of end user devices are made
4 via a second port of an intermediary processor while said intermediary
5 processor is connected to said computing resource via said first port.

1 18. The method of claim 16, wherein each user of one of said plurality
2 of end user devices is given the impression of being directly connected to
3 said computing resource.

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1 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the monitoring interface is
2 operable to retrieve information representing one or more parameters that
3 are indicative of the operational state of the computing resource.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein said computing resource is a
2 mobile switching center (MSC) and said monitoring interface is a status
3 display page (SDP) interface.

21. The method of claim 16, wherein said steps of connecting to said
port, connecting to said plurality of end user devices and multiplexing are
performed by a daemon running on a network server, wherein the network
is connectable to said computing resource.

22. A computer-readable medium having embodied thereon a program
to be processed by a server to cause said server to implement the method of
claim 16.

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